

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-10 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3399

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRI

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 3934

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOARES PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING JULY 11 TO ELABORATE ON RATIONALE FOR PS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM GOVERNMENT COALITION. TO OVERFLOWING CROWD OF EXPECTANT PORTUGUESE AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, SOARES REITERATED MAIN POINTS OF PREVIOUS PS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HIGHLIGHTS OF SOARES STATEMENTS INCLUDED:

-- ELECTORAL WAY TO SOCIALISM REMAINS ONLY ACCEPTABLE ROUTE;
-- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL CONCOMITANT OF ELECTORAL WAY;

-- AFM LEADERSHIP ACCEPTED BY PORTUGUESE PEOPLE FOLLOWING APRIL 25 REVOLUTION BECAUSE AFM HAD PLEDGED ITSELF TO DEMO-

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CRATIC WAY TO SOCIALISM;

-- PS CAN NOT ACCEPT CREATION OF PARALLEL POWER STRUCTURE APPROVED BY AFM ASSEMBLY. VIOLATION BY AFM OF PACT WITH POLITICAL PARTIES IS IMPLICIT IN CREATION OF SUCH REDUNDANT STRUCTURE;

-- ROUTE OF POPULAR ASSEMBLIES AND DECISIONS BY "SHOW OF HANDS" IS SAME ROUTE TO STATE CAPITALISM AND POLICE STATE; -- AFM STATEMENTS ARE REPLETE WITH PLEDGES TO PLURALISTIC WAY; AFM MUST NOW LIVE UP TO ITS WORD;

-- INDECISION OF AFM IN RÁDIO RENASCENCA AND REPÚBLICA CASES REFLECT LACK OF AUTHORITY IN COUNTRY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN POLITICAL PROCESS WHO DO NOT LIVE UP TO THEIR END OF BARGAIN;

-- WHAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED NOW IN COUNTRY IS "PLAN FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION" TO PUT COUNTRY BACK ON ITS FEET;

-- ECONOMY IS IN URGENT NEED OF REPAIR. UNEMPLOYMENT IS RISING; BANKRUPTCIES ARE MULTIPLYING; FLIGHT OF CAPITAL AND BRAIN POWER IS ACCELERATING. DOWNWARD SPIRAL MUST BE CHECKED AT ONCE;

-- NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IS WORTHY GOAL, BUT IT CAN NOT BE ACHIEVED WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ISOLATING PORTUGAL FROM ITS NEIGHBORS. PORTUGAL IS PART OF EUROPE. EVEN THE SOVIET UNION HAS RECOGNIZED THE IMPERATIVES OF GEOGRAPHY;

-- PS HAS LONG SINCE DEMONSTRATED ITS REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS. IT WILL NOT PROSTRATE ITSELF BEFORE AFM AND "LICK THEIR BOOTS" LIKE CERTAIN OTHER PARTIES.

-- PS IS NOT SYSTEMATICALLY ANTI-COMMUNIST; IT HAS FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES OF ITALY, FRANCE, ETC.. BUT PS COULD NOT WORK WITH PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP), UNLESS PCP WAS PREPARED TO "PLAY DEMOCRATIC GAME."

2. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WHICH FOLLOWED, SOARES ADDED THAT PS WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS STRATEGY IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HE SAID CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAD CLEAR MANDATE FROM PEOPLE TO WRITE CONSTITUTION AND IT WOULD DO JUST THAT.

3. SOARES ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD HOLD ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK (TIME UNSPECIFIED) TO KEEP PUBLIC ADVISED OF PS PLANS.

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